

*Library*



**BOROUGH OF TORQUAY**

---

**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

for 1953





BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

---

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1953

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...	3
Staff                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...	5
Section A.   STATISTICS   AND   SOCIAL   CONDITIONS   OF THE AREA                   ...                   ...                   ...	6
Section B.   GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA                   ...                   ...                   ...	12
Section C.   SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA ...	14
Section D.   HOUSING                   ...                   ...                   ...                   ...	33
Section E.   INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ...	38
Section F.   PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES                   ...	49
Section G.   PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION                   ...	52

ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,  
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. COUNCILLOR PIDGEON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

In the year under review, influenza and measles showed the biennial epidemic periodicity, and the incidence of whooping cough also assumed epidemic proportions ; but the type of influenza was mild with very few deaths, while there were not many complicated or serious cases of measles and whooping cough. Diphtheria remained absent for the seventh successive year, which is indeed a creditable record.

In December, under an Order made by the Minister of Food in connexion with the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, Torquay was declared part of an area in which all milk sold must be either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised. This is an important preventive measure, attracting as usual scant attention, but long overdue and greatly to be welcomed ; for when applied to the whole country it should abolish a large amount of crippling illness, especially much tuberculous infection in children. The pioneers who have for a long time advocated and striven for safe, as well as clean, milk may now feel satisfaction at this substantial progress, which should not pass entirely unhonoured and unsung.

Another measure, also of much permanent importance, was the decision to enlarge the capacity of the filtration plant at the watershed, so that the maximum daily demand for water can be safely and adequately met. The amount of water used reached a new high level of  $5\frac{1}{4}$  million gallons one day in August ; and the service in a health resort must be capable of supplying without difficulty enough, not merely for the average consumption, but also for the exceptional requirements of the holiday season.

With the approaching completion of the Sherwell Valley new Housing Estate, together with several small sites, some 1,464 council houses will have been provided since the war ; which, with those built previously, now form a substantial percentage of the total dwellings in the Borough. It was therefore decided that after these estates are completed, the building of council houses will not be continued. The full available resources can then be directed towards



slum clearance and towards the conversion, reconditioning and modernisation of older properties, which must remain for many years to come ; and this aspect of housing is an important corollary to the erection of new dwellings, which alone cannot effect the complete improvement in living standards desired by everyone.

Steps were taken to revise the bye-law relating to the fouling of footpaths by dogs, and the new bye-law was approved towards the end of the year. This is a necessary reminder to the public to co-operate in abolishing what is both a public health and a social nuisance of some magnitude. In this, as in the general maintenance of clean tidy streets and open spaces, free from the amount of litter sometimes seen, there is need for much more consideration and thought from the many who use the streets and enjoy the open spaces. The Local Authority's part of the work is carried out in an exemplary way ; and the general public should learn to follow this good example by helping at all times to maintain the highest standards.

The routine of the Department has been carried out with quiet efficiency, but prosaic official records and bare statistical tables do not vividly reflect the range of the work or the results achieved.

In conclusion it is with appreciation that I acknowledge the encouraging support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation of the Medical Profession in the association and interchange of the daily round and common task. To the Staff is due great credit for their constant zeal and high standard of work, which illumine the path of duty and inspire the hope of progress yet to come.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

## STAFF

### (a) Medical

*Medical Officer of Health*  
(and *Medical Officer, Torquay Isolation Hospital*) :

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

### (b) Sanitary

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

G. J. LOVELESS, T.D., C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

*District Sanitary Inspectors :*

A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food, R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.  
Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

E. V. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

J. MARTIN, C.S.I.B., Dip. R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

### (c) Other

*Public Analyst :*

\*T. TICKLE, B.SC., F.I.C.

*Chief Clerk :*

S. E. R. AUTHERS

*Clerks :*

E. C. DOBLE

B. L. BROWN

*Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors :*

M. L. WHITE

*Rodent Operatives :*

W. LEE

J. BORLACE

\* Part Time

## SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1953. ... ..	49,990
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to Rate Books ... ..	14,775
Rateable value (end of 1953) ... ..	£602,250
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1953) ...	£2,414

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

*including the chief Industries carried on in the Area and the extent of Unemployment.*

Torquay is now a busy holiday resort as well as a residential town ; and, with the increase in the number of persons receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming even busier than formerly. This has its effect on unemployment which now shows a more marked seasonal variation. For several years before the war the average minimum of unemployed was about 800 and the maximum about 1,800 : and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1953 :

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
December, 1953 ...	849	464	41	51	1405
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
July, 1953 ...	279	50	4	5	342

The seasonal variation of unemployment continues, but the number of unemployed has risen progressively since the end of the war : and the following table shows the maximum number of unemployed in each year since 1945, with the number of men included in the total, shown in parenthesis :—

1945	...	...	...	148 (101)
1946	...	...	...	180 (133)
1947	...	...	...	429 (333)
1948	...	...	...	493 (344)
1949	...	...	...	921 (540)
1950	...	...	...	1,013 (608)
1951	...	...	...	1,018 (577)
1952	...	...	...	1,298 (791)
1953	...	...	...	1,405 (849)

Possibly a proportion of the increase is due to a slackening of available work in the area ; but some is also due to the migration from other Districts of families, who seem to show little thought either for available work or for possible accommodation. And this also intensifies the general housing difficulties.

The same trend occurred after the first world war and became more marked with the subsequent industrial depression.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1953,  
*which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward  
and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	11.62
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	16.92
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	14.36
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... ..	1.69
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	15.49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	13.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	49.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	143
„ Measles (all ages)	... ..	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	2

*Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year  
which has received or required special comment.*

During the year there has been nothing to report.

*Population.*

The preliminary return of the Census taken in 1951 shows that the population of Torquay was 53,216 ; of this number 22,899 were males and 30,317 were females.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1953 is 49,990 ; and this figure is used in calculating the appropriate statistical returns.

*Births.*

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 581, of which 310 were male and 271 female ; there were 540 legitimate and 41 illegitimate births. There were 10 stillbirths, 10 legitimate and 0 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 11.62 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.5 for England and Wales, and 17.0 for the large towns ; the stillbirth-rate was 0.20 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the large towns being 0.35 and 0.43. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 16.92, compared with 22.4 for England and Wales, and 24.8 for the large towns.

(The large towns comprise 160 towns, each with a population exceeding 50,000 at the 1951 Census, and include Torquay.)

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 6.9 per cent, in 1953 ; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent. in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent. in 1945, subsequently falling, and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

A comparability factor, to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the town, has this year been prepared by the Registrar-General for correcting the birth-rate ; the factor is 1.04, and after multiplying the crude rate by this a corrected birth-rate of 12.10 is obtained.

### *Marriages.*

The marriage rate was 5.3 per 1,000 population compared with 5.1 in 1952, 5.9 in 1951, 5.3 in 1950, 5.1 in 1949 and 5.7 in 1948.

### *Deaths.*

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 718, of which 326 were males and 392 were females.

The crude death-rate was 14.36 per 1,000 population compared with 16.24 in 1952 ; the death-rate in 1953 for England and Wales was 11.4, and for the large towns 12.2.

In order to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, with its greater proportion of older people, the Registrar-General supplies an area comparability factor (A.C.F.) with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. The A.C.F. for Torquay is 0.69 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 9.91.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay :—Heart Disease, 226 ; Cancer, 143 ; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 123 ; which between them are responsible for two-thirds of the total deaths.

The death-rate from tuberculosis in Torquay was 0.24 per 1,000 population compared with 0.20 for England and Wales, and 0.24 for the large towns ; the death-rate from pneumonia was 0.38 per 1,000 population compared with 0.55 for England and Wales and 0.59 for the large towns.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying Table A, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Table B is also included showing the age-distribution of total deaths, together with the deaths from the different causes : this table is compiled from the returns of the Local Registrar, and differs slightly from the list supplied by the Registrar-General who frequently obtains subsequent further information to assist in the more accurate classification.

### *Infant Mortality.*

The infant mortality rate was 15.49 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 26.8 for England and Wales and 30.8 for the large towns ; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 13.0, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants

per 1,000 illegitimate births was 49.0. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated: thus the figures for the preceding five years, 1948-52 inclusive, were 23, 30, 23, 26, 31.

The actual number of deaths in 1953 of infants under 1 year of age was 9 (3 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1952 was 19 (12 being under 4 weeks).

There was 1 maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1948-52, was 0, 0, 1, 0, 0.



TABLE A.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1953						Males	Females
All Causes ... ..						326	392
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	6	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	8	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	15	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	13
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	42	45
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	2	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	42	81
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	48	37
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	15
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	49	73
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	12	26
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	6
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	11
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	20	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	8	7
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	7	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	6	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	5	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	24	24
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	8
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Death of Infants { Total ... ..						5	4
under 1 year { Legitimate ... ..						4	3
{ Illegitimate ... ..						1	1
Deaths of Infants { Total ... ..						1	2
under 4 weeks { Legitimate ... ..						1	2
{ Illegitimate ... ..						—	—
Stillbirths { Total ... ..						4	6
{ Legitimate ... ..						4	6
{ Illegitimate ... ..						—	—



TABLE B.  
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953 (Per Local Registrar).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.											
	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	12	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	1	1	4	-
2. Tuberculosis other	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4. Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	7	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	6	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	12	31	35
15. Leukemia, aleukaemia	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
16. Diabetes	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	35	69
18. Coronary disease, angina	87	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	15	32	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	14
20. Other heart disease	130	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	9	17	99
21. Other circulatory disease	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4
22. Influenza	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4
23. Pneumonia	21	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	11
24. Bronchitis	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	18	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	8	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	5	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	48	1	1	2	1	-	4	1	2	3	8	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	5
34. All other accidents	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
35. Suicide	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	718	3	6	4	3	5	8	14	46	85	195	348

## SECTION B

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority, including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.*

There was no change in staff during the year.

- (ii) *Committees.*

The list of Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are :—

Public Health Committee.  
Housing Committee.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

One Nursing Home was discontinued during the year, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December :—

Number of Homes on the Register	...	...	10
Number of Maternity Beds	...	...	11
Number of other Beds	...	...	89

3. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47.*

*If Action has been taken under this Section, a brief note of the circumstances of each case is requested. The note should include information as to the reason for the Council's action, period named in the Order of the Court, the type of accommodation to which the person was removed, the ultimate result of the Council's action and any other information on the case which it is considered might be of interest.*

This Section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions : and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves *and* are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention :

and makes the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts the authorities for dealing with such cases.

To effect the removal the Medical Officer of Health for the district must certify in writing to the Council that he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration, that in the interest of any such person, or for preventing injury to health, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person from the premises in which he is residing ; and the local authority may then apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Section. Before an application can be made,



seven clear days' notice must be given to the person concerned or to some person in charge of him, and to the persons managing the premises to which the removal is sought to be made.

When the application is made, it must be supported by all evidence of the allegations in the certificate; and the Court, if satisfied, may order the removal of the person concerned, by such officer of the local authority as may be specified, to a suitable hospital and may authorise the detention of the person concerned for a period not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any persons on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

On 1st September, 1951, an Amending Act came into force giving Local Authorities powers to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered Medical Practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom Section 47 of the 1948 Act applies, an application (that he should be removed without delay) may be made to the appropriate Court or to a single Justice, without giving the seven clear days' notice required by the main Act. The application may be made by the Local Authority, or by the Medical Officer of Health where the Authority authorises him to make application, in cases to which the Amending Act applies. The order is made for a period not exceeding 3 weeks, and any further application extending this period has to be in accordance with the main provisions of the 1948 Act.

Your Medical Officer is authorised to make application in any case to which the Amending Act applies.

During the year it was not necessary to take action under either Act.

#### 4. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50.*

Under Section 50 of this Act it is the duty of the Local Authority to cause to be buried the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area, in any cases where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made or are being made.

The Authority may receive from the estate, if any, of the deceased person or from any person who for the purposes of this Act was liable to maintain the deceased person immediately before his death, expenses incurred and not reimbursed under the National Insurance Act.

During the year, 9 burials were carried out under this section, compared with 7 in 1952, and 16 in 1951.

## SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water.*

In this report full details are given in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. W. F. White, M.I.W.E., has kindly supplied the following information.

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality ; (b) in quantity.*

(a) The rainfall on the catchment areas during the year has been exceptionally low, amounting in the case of Tottiford to only 30.80 inches, which is the lowest recorded for the past 32 years. As a result of the reduced inflow into the Tottiford Reservoirs it has been necessary to draw more water than usual into these reservoirs from Fernworthy Reservoir. Compared with the Tottiford water that from Fernworthy has a higher turbidity and colour, and contains much microscopic algae growth of the chlorophyceae *Pleurococcus*. In consequence a deterioration took place in the quality of the raw water passing on to the filters, which necessitated introducing the coagulation process, the chemicals used being aluminium sulphate in conjunction with sodium aluminate. During the period of the seasonal peak demand the filters became overloaded, and although the introduction of coagulation resulted in a better degree of clarification, it was not possible during this period to maintain the usual high standard of clarity. Terminal chlorination ensured that the water passing into supply was of the highest standard of bacterial purity. Apart from the quality of the water during the peak summer period being sub-standard on the score of turbidity due to the overloading of the filters, the quality of the water throughout the year has been pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

The Corporation has been aware for some time that the filter plant was inadequate for its duty during the peak summer period, and had made application to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for consent to proceed with a scheme for extending the existing filter plant; but the Minister had deferred authorising the work. In the light of the further evidence submitted to the Minister on the difficulty experienced in the process of filtration and treatment, due to the deterioration in the quality of the raw water, the scheme has now been authorised to start on the 1st April, 1954.

(b) There has been an ample quantity of water available for all purposes from the Corporation's four Impounding Reservoirs on Dartmoor, which have a storage capacity of 848 million gallons, or approximately 7 months' supply at the present rate of consumption. As in past years, there was a large number of visitors during the summer season, which considerably increased the population in the



area of supply, but no difficulty was experienced in meeting the demand including a peak consumption of 5.2 million gallon which occurred on the 14th August, 1953.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is treated, this comprising coagulation with chemicals, filtration through pressure filters, addition of lime water to increase the hardness and neutralize acidity, and finally sterilization by the application of gaseous chlorine. The raw water is normally acid with a pH value in the region of 6.6; after treatment the value is raised to 9.2, which results in the consumers receiving a water on the alkaline side of neutrality.

The chlorine dosage is normally about 1.0 part per million, but is adjusted so as to maintain a residuum in the water passing into distribution from the service reservoirs.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made of the raw, filtered, (with and without coagulation), and finally treated water, as follows:—

#### RAW WATER

- A.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological, Fernworthy Reservoir inlet at Trenchford Reservoir—Taken 7.5.53.
- B.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological, Raw Water passing on to pressure filters—Taken 7.5.53.
- C.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological, Trenchford Reservoir—near Draw-off Valve Tower, representing raw water conveyed to pressure filters—Taken 1.7.53.

#### FILTERED WATER (WITH COAGULATION) prior to chlorination and hardening.

- D.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological—Taken 1.7.53.

#### FILTERED WATER (WITHOUT COAGULATION) prior to chlorination and hardening.

- E.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological—Taken 2.7.53.

#### FINALLY TREATED WATER

- F.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological, Warberry Service Reservoir—Taken 8.5.53.
- G.1.—Chemical and Bacteriological, Chapel Hill Service Reservoir—Taken 8.5.53.

NOTE—Analyses C, D and E were taken in connexion with the further evidence submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the purpose of proving that the filter plant extension had become a matter of urgent necessity.

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,  
66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

## A.1. SAMPLE 8.5.53.

## TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

(Fernworthy Reservoir inlet at Trenchford Reservoir—Raw water).

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Slight opalescence with a slight deposit of mineral and organic débris together with numerous chlorophyceae and a number of protozoa. (Pleurococcus 75,000 ml.).

Colour (Filtered) ... ..	25	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	3
Reaction pH ... ..	7.1	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	47	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	8	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	30
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ... ..	5
Hardness : Total ... ..	10	{ Carbonate 5 { Non-carbonate	5
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.010	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.14	Metals : Iron ... ..	0.10
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	2.2	Other Metals ...	Absent

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	4 per ml.	40 per ml.	60 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> 10* ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 1 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 25 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	50 ml.	20 ml.	3 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

\* False presumptive reaction

This sample shows only a slight opalescence and deposit, the turbidity being noticeable but not marked. The water is neutral in reaction, very soft in character and has a very low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water shows noticeable but not pronounced colour and is otherwise of satisfactory organic quality for a raw supply. Bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is confined to the presence of Bact. coli in very small number.

## B.1. SAMPLE 8.5.53.

## TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

(Raw water main feeding pressure filters at Tottiford—Nr. Bovey Tracey.  
Source—Trenchford Reservoir)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Faint opalescence with a slight deposit of mineral and organic débris together with numerous chlorophyceae and a number of protozoa.

Colour (Filtered) ... ..	16	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	3
Reaction pH ... ..	7.3	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	70	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ... ..	7
Hardness : Total ... ..	15	{ Carbonate 7 { Non-carbonate	8
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.11	Metals : Iron ... ..	0.10
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ... ..	1.5	Other Metals ...	Absent



## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	1 per ml.	9 per ml.	45 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	<i>Present in</i> 10* ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 1 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 35 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	50 ml.	20 ml.	3 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

\* False presumptive reaction.

## C.1. SAMPLE 2.7.53.

## TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

(Near Draw-off Valve Tower, representing raw water conveyed to pressure filters at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey).

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Slight opalescence with a slight deposit of mineral and organic débris containing a few diatoms, protozoa and a chlorophyceae growth. (Pleurococcus 65,000/ml.).

Colour (Filtered) ...	11	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	3.8
Reaction pH ...	6.7	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	70	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	15	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	8
Hardness : Total ...	15	Carbonate 8 { Non-carbonate 7	
		temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.010	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.12	Metals : Iron ...	0.12
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	1.5	Other metals ...	Absent
		Phosphate ...	Less than 0.02
		Silica ...	8

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	2 per ml.	4 per ml.	12 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	<i>Present in</i> 50 ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 20 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 5 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	50 ml.	20 ml.	5 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample shows the effect of the inferior water from Fernworthy. Turbidity, caused by the pleurococcus, is appreciable and clarification is required to afford a water of quality appropriate to a public supply—apart from the treatment applied to restrain corrosive activity.

## D.1. SAMPLE 2.7.53.

(Filtered water main from pressure filters (without coagulation) at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey. Source : Trenchford Reservoir).

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Slight opalescence with a deposit consisting of a chlorophyceae growth. (Pleurococcus 60,000/ml.).

Colour (Filtered) ...	11	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	4.0
Reaction pH ...	6.7	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	65	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	45

			Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
			bonate ... ..	7
Hardness : Total ... ..	15	{ Carbonate 7 { Non-carbonate 8	{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Absent	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.030	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent	
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.18	Metals : Iron ... ..	0.03	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Manganese ... ..	0.03	
at 27°C. ... ..	2.1	Other Metals ... ..	Absent	

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	8 per ml.	12 per ml.	500 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ... ..	50 ml.	20 ml.	5 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ... ..	50 ml.	20 ml.	5 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ... ..	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample shows that filtration without coagulation has been virtually without effect. The sample has a concentration of Pleurococcus approaching that of the Fernworthy water, even though a comparison of the various chloride figures shows the presence of a substantial proportion of Trenchford water. It therefore appears that a further proliferation of the growth is taking place in the Trenchford Reservoir. The water, though not unwholesome when subject to the terminal chlorination applied to obtain a proper standard of bacterial purity, is not of the quality required of a public supply.

E.1. SAMPLE 3.7.53.

(Filtered water main from pressure filters (with coagulation) at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey. Source : Trenchford Reservoir).

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Faint opalescence with a very slight green deposit consisting of a chlorophyceae growth. (Pleurococcus 13,000/ml.).

Colour (Filtered) ... ..	3	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ... ..	2.7
Reaction pH ... ..	6.2	Odour ... ..	Nil
Electric conductivity ... ..	75	Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	3
Chlorine present as Chloride	12	Totals solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate ... ..	3
Hardness : Total ... ..	16	{ Carbonate 3 { Non-carbonate 13	
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.017	Residual Chlorine ... ..	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.082	Metals : Iron ... ..	0.12
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Manganese ... ..	0.03
at 27°C. ... ..	1.2	Other metals ... ..	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	2 per ml.	7 per ml.	26 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ... ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ... ..	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ... ..	— ml.	100 ml.	



This sample shows that a better degree of clarification is obtained with coagulation but, in the present circumstances, treatment remains inefficient. Thus, the numbers of *Pleurococcus* are substantial and the turbidity of the water sufficient to be noticeable and therefore objectionable. The particular organism (*Pleurococcus*) is a tiny unicellular alga. It may be noted, that when the soft moorland waters do support algae, the species growing are most frequently of the small, filter-invading or filter-passing type. Given even very moderate rates of filtration, coagulation is usually necessary to obtain a satisfactory filtrate.

#### F.1. SAMPLE 9.5.53.

(Warberry Service Reservoir. Treated water—filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford Watershed).

#### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Faint opalescence with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic débris together with numerous chlorophyceae and a few protozoa.

Colour (Filtered) ...	...	10	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	...	1.5
Reaction pH ...	...	8.4	Odour ...	...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	...	80	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride		12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.		55
			Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	...	12
Hardness : Total ...	...	17	{ Carbonate 12 { Non-carbonate		5
			{ temporary { premanent		
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	...	0.60	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	...	0.082	Metals : Iron ...	...	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			Other Metals ...	...	Absent
at 27° C ...	...	1.1			

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			2 days at 37°C.		3 days at 20°C.	
	1 per ml.			1 per ml.		18 per ml.	
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	...	Present in	— ml.	Absent from	100 ml.	Probable Number	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	...	— ml.	100 ml.	100 ml.			0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	...	100 ml.		10 ml.			

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance since it shows only faint opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is very faintly alkaline in reaction, very soft in character, has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows only a trace of colour, is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

## G.1. SAMPLE 9.5.53.

(Chapel Hill Service Reservoir. Treated water—filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford Watershed.)

## CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

*Appearance* : Faint opalescence with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris together with numerous chlorophyceae and a few protozoa.

Colour (Filtered) ...	...	10	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	1.5
Reaction pH ...	...	8.4	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	...	82	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride		12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
			Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	14
Hardness : Total ...	...	23	{ Carbonate 14 { temporary	{ Non-carbonate 9 { permanent
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	...	0.026	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	...	0.091	Metals : Iron ...	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	...	1.1	Other Metals ...	Absent

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	1 per ml.	170 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> ... ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance since it shows only faint opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is very faintly alkaline in reaction, very soft in character, has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows only a trace of colour, is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES,  
for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples are also taken regularly from a variety of sources within the Borough, such as storage reservoirs, drinking fountains, taps in private houses, dairies, schools, etc. 96 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in 81 the results were good, viz. :—

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE,  
EXETER.

“ Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.=Nil. This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically.”

In 12 of the remaining samples the probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was less than 10, and in the other 3 samples more than 10 ; and in 1 of these cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.



(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

The analyses show a minute trace of iron and sometimes a very minute trace of manganese, all other metals being absent.

The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

As it was found that one of the main feeder streams on the Fernworthy catchment was being polluted by cattle, arrangements have now been made to acquire an area of 22 acres covering each side of the stream, which will be fenced off.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses ; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.8 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.2 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

(vi) *Mineral Spring.*

5 samples taken from the mineral spring in Meadfoot Sea Road were submitted for bacteriological examination. (This spring is at present used to supply a public drinking fountain.) 3 samples gave satisfactory results, viz. : probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—nil. In the case of the 2 other samples examination showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 35.

(vii) *Drainage and Sewerage .*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given the following details in connexion with drainage, sewerage and public cleansing.

The stormwater outfall from Sherwell Valley Estate was connected to a new stormwater system laid from Chelston Park to the top of Sherwell Valley Road.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No cases of conversion are known during the year under review.

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

No material change has taken place in street cleansing or cess-pool cleansing.

Further building in the district has resulted in an increase in refuse collection rounds.

(x) *Rivers and Streams.*

*Any action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.*

There are no rivers in the area, but several small streams ; no complaints have been received during the year concerning pollution. Two small streams, one rising near the railway at Lawes Bridge and the other at Watcombe, are not subject to pollution other than that from surface road washings.

(xi) *Salvage.*

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, and the following are the details of the amounts of salvage recovered :—

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	...	389	1
Metal : ferrous	...	...	...	77	7
Metal : non-ferrous	...	...	...	28	2
Textiles	...	...	...	8	5
String	...	...	...	—	1½
Rubber	...	...	...	—	6½
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	758	13
Bones	...	...	...	—	10
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	2,572½ doz.	
Number of Hats	...	...	...	248	
Oil	...	...	...	335 galls.	
Bedrails	...	...	...	135 only	

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Chief Sanitary Inspector who gives these details :—

The organisation of the work was revised, and the tentative arrangement of partial specialisation, which was being provisionally tried, was discontinued ; each of the four Inspectors is now responsible for a district of the Borough, while the duties of meat inspection at the Abattoir are shared by three in rotation, and the fourth carries out the routine inspection of fish at the Harbour.

The co-operation and work of the individual inspectors have been excellent, and the high standard in all the wide range of duties reflects the greatest credit on their diligence and ability.

The following inspections were carried out :—

<i>Dwelling Houses</i>				
New Houses inspected	...	...	...	190
Habitation Certificates signed	...	...	...	134
Council House applications—visits	...	...	...	247
Council Houses inspected	...	...	...	202



## Work done in consequence of service of notices :—

Roofs repaired	...	...	27	renewed...	2
Chimneys repaired	...	...	3	renewed...	—
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	8	renewed...	2
Rain Water Pipes repaired	...	...	5	renewed...	5
External rendering repaired	...	...	16	renewed...	3
Internal rendering repaired	...	...	25	renewed...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	13	renewed...	2
Windows repaired	...	...	16	renewed...	16
Doors repaired	...	...	4	renewed...	8
Floors repaired	...	...	6	renewed...	5
Stoves and Fireplaces repaired	...	...	5	renewed...	1
Stairs repaired	...	...	1	renewed...	1
Handrails repaired	...	...	—	renewed...	1
Copper repaired	...	...	1	renewed...	—
Walls repaired	...	...	3	built	3
Yards cleansed	...	...	1	repaved...	3
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	22
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	1
Larders provided	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	10
Drains and Sewers :					
Inspected	...	...	...	...	317
Tests applied	...	...	...	...	249
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	89
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	24
Revisits to drainage work	...	...	...	...	830

## Drainage work carried out :—

Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	12
Fresh Air Inlets provided	...	...	...	7
Inspection Chambers built	...	...	...	58
Iron Frames and Covers provided	...	...	...	54
Soil and Vent Pipes fixed	...	...	...	41
Gullies provided	...	...	...	56
Waste Pipes provided	...	...	...	79
Waste Pipes trapped	...	...	...	72
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	39
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	7
Flushing Cisterns renewed	...	...	...	8
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	11
Water Closets renewed	...	...	...	18
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	51
Water Closet Apartments built	...	...	...	32
Water Closet Apartments ventilated	...	...	...	30
Water Closet Apartments cleansed	...	...	...	7
Lavatory Basins provided	...	...	...	59
Baths provided	...	...	...	25
Sinks provided	...	...	...	26
Urinals repaired	...	...	...	1
Urinals renewed	...	...	...	1
Additional Urinals provided	...	...	...	2
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	...	79
Cesspools and Septic Tanks cleansed	...	...	...	2
Cesspools and Septic Tanks repaired	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Certificates granted	...	...	...	2

<i>General Public Health</i>						<i>Inspections</i>	
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	24	
Open Spaces	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	63	
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	201	
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	19	
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	228	
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	14	
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Ships	...	...	...	...	...	64	
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Offensive Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	8	
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	30	
Abattoir	...	...	...	...	...	609	
Meat Dépôt	...	...	...	...	...	11	
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	...	133	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>							
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	598	
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	839	
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	91	

## NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Public Health Act ...	218	148	63	41	—	2	281	191
Housing Act ...	11	5	32	52	—	2	43	59
Factories Act ...	54	4	11	8	—	—	65	12
Food and Drugs Act ...	85	31	6	4	—	—	91	35
TOTALS ...	368	188	112	105	—	4	480	297

(Note : Some of the notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.)

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act; any contraventions of those sections under the control of H.M. Inspector which are noticed by your Sanitary Inspectors are notified and this action is reciprocated.

The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and the defects found—and of the Outworkers with the type of work undertaken.

### 1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES. (Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	54	33	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	2	235	166	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	3	2	2	2	—
TOTAL ... ..		291	201	11	—

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	12	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	6	2	2	—	2	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ... ..	9	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	10	4	2	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	12	45	3	42	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	60	65	12	42	8	—



**OUTWORK.**  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. ... ..	13	4					
	14	—					
Basket making ... ..	40	15					
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	70	19	-	-	-	-	-

*Marine Store Dealers.*

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, was adopted by the Local Authority in 1910, and since that date a register of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores has been maintained, and regular inspections made of the premises. Four premises were on the register but one business was closed during 1953.

*Smoke Abatement.*

In a town like Torquay, the work under this section is not very considerable ; three observations have been made in connexion with alleged nuisances, but nothing has occurred which has justified any formal notice or action.

*Common Lodging House.*

There is one registered common lodging house in the Borough. Five inspections were made during the year and it was found satisfactory on each occasion.

*Offensive Trades.*

There is one Tripe Boiler registered in the district. Regular inspections have been made and no complaint of any nuisance has been received.

*Diseases of Animals Act, 1951.*

It was not necessary to take any action under this Act.

*Disinfections and Disinfestations.*

176 premises were treated during the year and 31 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

*Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.*

This Act requires (a) the registration of premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, carriages and other articles of upholstery (but this does not apply to reconditioning or remaking); and (b) the licensing of premises where

rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises.

Registration should be accorded unconditionally if the premises are used for the purpose stated and the fee is paid ; licences should be granted after an officer has inspected and reported on the premises, which are to have such appliances as may be necessary to enable clean rag flock to be manufactured, and licences can only be refused on limited grounds.

The necessary records have to be kept on registered and on licensed premises in the form prescribed ; and there are powers of entry, of inspection and of sampling.

The sale of articles with unclean materials is forbidden, although this does not apply to second-hand articles ; the word " clean " means compliance with standards laid down by regulations. And the filling materials are defined as rag flock, cotton flock, unwoven wool, jute, unwoven synthetic fibres, hair, feathers, down, kapok, coir fibre, seaweed, straw and such other materials as may be prescribed.

Regulations have so far been made on the type of records, the right to have samples tested, and the standards of cleanliness ; the Minister has also prescribed certain analysts to whom samples must be sent for testing.

This Act is of great importance and it is hoped that high standards will be everywhere maintained in the cleanliness of filling materials ; and your Inspectors will do all that they can to encourage the co-operation of manufacturers and traders, with whom they will discuss, and help in, any difficulties that may arise.

There are 5 premises registered under the Act, and one other premises is licensed annually for the storage of rag flock.

Samples of filling materials were obtained during the year, and the results are as follows :—

<i>Type of Material</i>					<i>Satisfactory</i>
2 Samples Rag Flock	...	...	...	...	2
1 Sample Woollen Felt Mixture	...	...	...	...	1
1 Sample Woollen Felt	...	...	...	...	1
1 Lindsey Wool	...	...	...	...	1
1 Coir Fibre	...	...	...	...	1

#### *Shops Act, 1950.*

This was mainly a consolidating act and there were no significant changes in the law. The duties, so far as public health is concerned, are connected with the maintenance of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of reasonable temperature, of lighting, of sanitary accommodation and of the provision of washing facilities.



During the year 228 routine inspections were carried out and five contraventions of these sections were discovered :—

Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	...	1
Insufficient ventilation ...	...	3
Insufficient Washing Facilities ...	...	1

And all were remedied by informal action. No exemptions were granted.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Sanitary Inspectors are also responsible for the administration of the other provisions of the Act ; these are not really Public Health matters and include hours of closing, conditions of employment, provisions affecting young persons under 18, Sunday employment and Sunday trading. Copies of a summary of the various enactments have been distributed on the visit of your Sanitary Inspectors, and copies of a schedule have also been distributed showing the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 ; these are especially important for hotels and places of public entertainment, whose owners have the option to apply either this Act or Part I of the Shops Act. The requirements include the permitted weekly hours of employment, overtime, intervals for meals and rest, half-holidays, night and Sunday employment, and the exhibition of Notice C.

In this connexion a number of enquiries have been received from young persons and parents, and also from employers : and the necessary help and advice have been given. In addition, there is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour in dealing with cases brought to his notice.

32 visits were made in connexion with hours of closing, and 26 violations were found and remedied.

Two enquiries were made following the receipt of complaints received under the Young Persons (Employment) Act, and one violation of the Act was discovered and remedied.

#### *Pet Animals Act, 1951.*

This Act came into force on 1st April, 1952, after which it was necessary for shops selling pet animals to be licensed by the Local Authority. Licences are granted subject to certain provisions to ensure that the accommodation shall be suitable in respect of size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that suitable food and drink and care of the animals are provided, and that no animal is displayed in such position as to expose it to interference or annoyance by persons or animals, that entrance and exit from the shop are not rendered difficult in case of emergency, and that there are suitable measures for fire prevention and control.

The administration of the Act is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, and the following shows the number of applications for licences :—

Number of applications for licences ...	...	8
Number of licences granted ...	...	8



The premises licensed have been regularly inspected during the year.

*The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.*

This Act came into force on 23rd April, 1953, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations came into operation on 1st October, 1953.

The Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas fires, electric fires, and oil heaters of types so designed that they are suitable for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there is a likelihood of injury by burning or of ignition of clothing by reason of contact with or proximity to the heating element. There are certain exceptions, and heating appliances manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of the Regulations and not fitted with the requisite guard may be sold until 30th September, 1954.

The standards to which the guards must comply are prescribed, and the necessary apparatus for testing has been obtained : and your Sanitary Inspectors are carrying out the work of checking new fireguards and of enforcing the Regulations.

*Riding Establishments Act 1939.*

This Act is designed to ensure the adequate care and well-being of horses in riding schools and similar establishments.

Arrangements have been made in Torquay for the South-Western Branch of the Royal Veterinary Association to nominate a Veterinary Surgeon to carry out this work on the terms agreed to by the Association. Mr. C. Masson, M.R.C.V.S. was appointed and carries out regular inspections of the horses ; and his reports show that the condition of the horses was found to be satisfactory.

*Swimming Baths and Pools.*

(a) *Public Swimming Baths.*

The Corporation Swimming Baths are visited weekly and samples of water are taken from both the shallow end and the deep end. A test to determine the adequacy of the chlorine content is also made at each visit.

88 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end ...	...	...	...	34	10	44
Shallow end	...	...	...	39	5	44
				—	—	—
				73	15	88
				—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 120, and in 12 cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

(b) *Privately-owned Swimming Baths.*

81 samples were also taken from a private swimming bath in which the water is chlorinated although a mechanical system of chlorination is not available, the results being as follows :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end ...	...	...	...	24	16	40
Shallow end	...	...	...	25	16	41
				—	—	—
				49	32	81
				—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of *Coli-aerogenes* organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 140, and in 22 cases *Bact. coli* of the faecal type was detected.

*Eradication of Bed-Bugs.*

(1) *The number of houses infested during the year was :—*

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	3

*The number of houses disinfested was :—*

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	3

(2) *The methods employed for freeing infested houses from Bed-Bugs.*

Premises are disinfested by spraying with insecticide over all the surfaces or by use of an insecticide powder. If necessary woodwork is removed from walls, etc.

(3) *The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses :*

Notice is obtained before the transfer of tenants so that the District Sanitary Inspectors can visit and inspect prior to removal ; any belongings of the tenants found to be verminous are dealt with before the transfer is effected.

(4) *Whether the work of disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor.*

All the work is carried out by the Local Authority.

*Beaches and the Shore Fly : Fucomyia (Coelopa) Frigida Fl'n.*

Considerable trouble seems to have been experienced recently along other parts of the South Coast of England with the shore fly ; but it is interesting, and indeed creditable to Torquay, to record that 40 years ago a full description of this fly in connexion with the beaches was given in a paper on 12th August, 1914, before the Torquay Natural History Society and recorded in the Journal of the Society, 1915, Vol. II as “ The Life History of the Shore Fly : *Fucomyia (Coelopa) Frigida Fl'n* ” by Major E. V. Elwes.

On most sea beaches, the sea-weed marks the high water limit, the weed being chiefly decaying fronds of Oar weed and Bladder weed ; these form breeding places for various fauna—“ Sand Hopper ” on sandy shores, “ Stone Hopper ” on stony beaches, and types of beetles, flies, “ spring tails ”, mites, and centipedes.



The shore fly belongs to the family Phycodromide or "Sea-weed runners", brown or black shore flies with a flat thorax. They are found at all seasons but are most numerous in the autumn; if weeds or stones are disturbed they quickly hide and rarely take wing unless the weather is warm and the sun shining. They occasionally fly a few miles inland and visit flowers. Unlike most diptera, they are not easily drowned, and in his paper Major Elwes remarked that owing to the very great resistance of the larvae to chemical reagents, the larvae could be killed instantly only by heat.

No great difficulty has been experienced in Torquay, as Mead-foot Beach is the only beach on which the fly has appeared in any number: and it has been found quite effective to place Fumite Lamps (during the winter months) in each of the beach huts, in which the flies seem to congregate between the boarding. After fumigation with what is in effect a pyrethrum-gammexane combination, large numbers of flies are killed, while the persistent action of the gammexane keeps the huts clear throughout the summer. No complaints have been received during the season.

#### *Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs.*

The Byelaw in connexion with the fouling of footpaths by dogs was revised, and the approval of the Home Office has been obtained; the new byelaw comes into force early in 1954, and arrangements are being made for the necessary publicity so that the owners of dogs may be aware of the alterations.

#### *Measures against Rodents.*

This work has been carried out, on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details:—

At the request of the Ministry, this part of the Report covers the period 1st January, 1953 to 31st March, 1954. This has been done in order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities.

Three sewer maintenance treatments were completed during the period, when 781 manholes were baited. Once again there was an absence of "Complete Pre-Bait Takes"; 330 Partial Takes and 451 No Takes were recorded. In addition, the required 10 per cent. test baiting was carried out, and in this connexion 200 manholes were baited.

In surface control, 778 treatments were made to private premises and 277 treatments to business premises. The co-operation of owners and occupiers has again proved most helpful, and several premises have been rat-proofed after successful treatments.



The education in measures of rodent control of the staff of various establishments has continued ; and while the subsequent work carried out is supervised by your Rodent Operatives, the arrangement results in a considerable saving of their time.

**RODENT CONTROL**  
(Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954)  
**TYPE OF PROPERTY**

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	46	13,535	42	2,568	16,191
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1953 as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey or (c) otherwise. e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(a) 9	217	Nil	75	301
	(b) 5	488	11	56	660
	(c) Nil	8	Nil	25	33
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 4	6	4	9	23
	Minor 9	251	7	46	313
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	2	29	Nil	19	50
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	15	286	Nil	74	375
Number of notices served under Sect. 4 :					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—

Number of " block " control schemes carried out ... Nil

## SECTION D

## HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	319
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	744
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	212

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	246
---	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms<br>in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... —     |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in<br>respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the<br>tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... ... — |

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 13 complaints, only 5 cases were found to be overcrowded within the legal definition. There must, of course, be other cases which only a detailed survey would bring to light, but generally speaking, this problem does not appear to be so acute as is sometimes considered.



New Houses.

The following table shows the progress in the erection of new Council houses :—  
NEW COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED SINCE THE WAR

TEMPORARY		PERMANENT																		
CADE- WELL	HAPPA- WAY	WATCOMBE						COOMBE PAFFORD		STARPITTEN		MARLDON						SHERWELL VALLEY		
2 bed- room houses	2 bed- room houses	3 bed- room houses	4 bed- room houses	Old Peoples Bungalows			3 bed- room flats over shops	3 bed- room houses	4 bed- room houses	2 bed- room bunga- lows	3 bed- room houses	Old Peoples Bungalows		2 bed- room bunga- lows	3 bed- room bunga- lows	2 bed- room houses	3 bed- room houses	27	132	
				bed recess	1 bed- room	2 bed- room						1 bed- room	2 bed- room							
1946	97	40																		Total
1947		103						38												163
1948								74	2	2	8									188
1949								146	2	4										156
1950								14							10	22				62
1951														2		158				167
1952														4		6	103			127
1953													10							159
Total	97	143	114	14	6	4	6	7	272	4	6	8	10	4	6	10	283	27	132	1159

Work on the development of the new Sherwell Valley Estate has proceeded satisfactorily and during the year 159 houses were completed ; while 227 houses are under construction and should be ready for occupation early in 1954. In addition 18 Council flats were being built at the corner of Warbro Road on a site where some dwellings were demolished by bombing during the war ; and another 18 flats were under construction at Collaton Road.

In addition a further 12 houses are to be built on the Marldon Estate, 4 houses and 4 bungalows at Hele, 13 houses at Watcombe, 8 at Coombe Pafford and 1 at Maidencombe. When these are completed the number of Council houses erected since the war will be 1,464, which with the pre-war houses makes a total of 2,277. These form a substantial percentage (15 compared with 6.6 before the war) of the total residential properties in the Borough ; and it was decided, towards the end of the year, that development of the second part of the Sherwell Valley Estate should not be proceeded with, and that no further Council houses should be built.

The number of houses erected privately during the year was 131, which brings the number built privately since the war to approximately 438.

#### *Requisitioned Premises.*

The policy of releasing properties was continued during the year and 2 such houses were returned to their owners ; and at the end of 1953 there was no house held under requisition, so that this scheme, another legacy of war-time emergency, has fortunately ended.

#### *Housing Defects.*

Some progress has again been made in the repair of private property, but only in the face of continuing resistance on the part of the owners. This is quite understandable, because, with controlled rents, many owners are now in financially straitened circumstances ; and instead of carrying out regular maintenance, they are compelled to lessen their already decreasing resources to deal with the most urgent repairs.

The work carried out during the year under the Housing Act, 1936, was restricted to essential repairs only, and was generally the result of complaints by tenants. The number of such houses rendered fit for habitation was 246.

In the last annual report reference was made to three essential factors upon which future improvement of the general housing position intimately depends : first, the treatment and cure of the creeping paralysis due to Rent Restriction ; secondly, the encouragement of owners not only to maintain essential repairs but also to improve the amenities of the property (where this is required) by the installation in gradual stages of such facilities as a larder, wash-basin, bath, hot water system and the like ; and, thirdly, the preservation of a good relationship between landlord and tenant. And

the attainment of these conditions should in some measure be facilitated by the proposed new legislation.

*The Housing Bill, 1953.*

Following the publication of this bill and the accompanying white paper (Houses—The Next Step) a memorandum was submitted by your Medical Officer to summarise the details with special reference to the problem in Torquay. In anticipation of the time when schemes would be practicable for clearance areas and for improvement of property, your Medical Officer had submitted a report in December, 1949, dealing with the results of a detailed inspection of the Districts where most of the unfit property was known to exist. The standard of fitness used was similar to the standard now proposed ; and the houses were classified as being suitable for improvement, for conversion, or for demolition (individually or in clearance areas.)

Pending the new legislation your Sanitary Inspectors are making further inspections to bring up-to-date the records of the houses concerned, with any additions or modifications as may be necessary. The preparatory work is continuing for all the groups detailed above so that clearance areas can proceed, any individual houses be remedied, and owners of certain properties encouraged to apply for grants for improvement or conversion, as soon as the Bill becomes law.

The problem of slum clearance areas in Torquay is not large, and it is reasonable to anticipate that, as new housing is virtually completed, the actual clearance of the areas being scheduled will be finished within five years from the time the new legislation comes into force.

*Underground Room Regulations.*

No action was taken under these Regulations.

*Closure of unfit dwellings.*

There was no closure of unfit dwellings during the year.

*Housing Act, 1949 and 1952. Improvement Grants.*

No application was received in 1953.



## SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

*A. Milk Supply.**(i) Source of Supply.*

*Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.*  
*The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No 2).*  
*Order, 1953.*

In this Order made by the Minister of Food, a part of South Devon which includes Torquay has been declared an Area under the Food and Drugs Act, 1950 ; the Order came into force on 2nd December and made it an offence to sell milk other than designated Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised Milk (Accredited Milk being permitted temporarily until 30th September, 1954, five years after the Act came into force).

This is a very important measure of progress which is greatly to be welcomed ; and it should abolish much of the risk of infection being spread by milk, especially tuberculous infection in children.

Subsequently on 20th December the Milk (Special Designation), (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953, came into force. These Regulations (1) appoint 1st October, 1954, as the date from which it shall be compulsory to use overlapping caps on containers of pasteurised milk ; (2) allow milk to be sterilised in cans or other suitable containers in addition to bottles.

*(ii) Producers.*

At the end of the year there were 14 Dairy Farms within the Borough. Five of these possess Tuberculin Tested herds, two Accredited herds, the remainder having no special designation. The non-designated farms are visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspectors and occasional samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination ; a total of 40 inspections was made.

*(iii) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Section 20.*

This section refers to the spread of infection by milk ; and under it the Medical Officer of Health has power to prohibit the milk from being sold or used until it is heat-treated, if he has evidence, or reasonable grounds for suspecting, that the consumption of this milk may give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

### *Dairies and Distributors.*

14 premises are registered as dairies and 45 persons are registered as distributors of milk. All premises used for the storage, treatment and sale of milk are inspected regularly, and in every case comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 191 inspections were made during the year.

### *Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.*

#### *Heat-treated Milk.*

There are four licensed Pasteurising Establishments ; three are plants operating the Holder method (in 100 Gallon Batch Pasteurisers) and one is a high-temperature short-time plant. Regular supervision of all these plants is maintained by your Sanitary Inspectors and samples of milk are taken every fortnight from each plant. A total of 91 samples gave the following results :—

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>
Phosphatase test ... ..	87	4	—
Methylene Blue reduction test ...	64	—	27*

\* The regulations state that on arrival at the laboratory the samples of milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the test is begun. If at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples, as indicated by the maximum thermometer adjusted to below 65°F. at 9 a.m. on each day of sampling, has exceeded 65°F., the test shall be void.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Pasteuriser's Licences ... ..	4
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised " ... ..	41
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised " ... ..	4

### *Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.*

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation " Accredited " ... ..	2
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested " ... ..	38
Dealers' Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested " ... ..	3

### *B. Meat and Other Foods.*

At the beginning of the War the five private slaughterhouses in Torquay were closed and killing was concentrated at a private slaughterhouse requisitioned by the Ministry of Food in Parkfield Road. Slaughtering is carried out on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays : and the " carry-over " on Saturdays and



Sundays. All animals killed are inspected in accordance with Memorandum 3/Meat, together with additional instructions such as for *cysticercus bovis* ; and your Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for this work.

Conditions at the abattoir are substantially the same. The general equipment, ropes, hooks, hanging rails, etc., require thorough overhaul and in many cases complete renewal ; and much of the equipment is incapable of being adequately cleansed. In addition your Inspectors are still without washing facilities : and as they are frequently handling diseased meat it is essential that they should be provided with hot and cold water washing facilities, and with the means for sterilising knives and other equipment.

Certain changes will be necessary at the end of meat rationing, but it is considered essential that there should be some central control to ensure that buildings in which slaughtering is carried out satisfy all the requirements of hygiene, meat inspection and humane slaughtering. Moreover the abattoirs should be so sited as to obtain the maximum economies both in achieving these objectives and in the cost of transport of livestock and meat.

An Interdepartmental Committee for England and Wales is to prepare plans recommending the localities for abattoirs under a policy of moderate concentration, and to recommend an order of priority for new buildings and major reconstruction. The Committee has issued an interim report dealing with the period prior to the implementation of this policy ; and the Local Authority will have the responsibility for licensing private slaughterhouses and for ensuring that adequate facilities are available for the needs of its area. These matters will be dealt with during the coming year.

But, in the interests of hygiene and of efficient meat inspection, the need for a modern abattoir to serve the Borough and some neighbouring areas is urgent and essential ; and it is hoped that priority will be given to the requirements of the District as to siting and construction.

#### *Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection.*

The revised memorandum (3/Meat) was received, together with a circular from the Ministry of Food, which was based upon the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee on Meat Inspection of 1951. There are four sections : (1) General guidance for Authorised Officers, and occupiers of slaughterhouses and slaughtermen ; (2) Ante-mortem inspection of animals ; (3) Post-mortem inspection ; (4) Action to be taken when evidence of disease is found.

This memorandum was adopted, so far as it concerns the work of the Local Authority, and put into effect on 1st February, 1953.



*Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1953.*

This Act will come into operation on 1st July, 1954, and provides for the humane slaughter of Pigs in places other than slaughter-houses and knackers yards.

(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections :—

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) ....	1931	766	1739	8727	1665
Number inspected ....	1931	766	1739	8727	1665
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ....	1	5	6	15	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	483	411	16	1869	218
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ....	25.1	54.6	1.3	21.6	13.3
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ....	8	16	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	153	146	—	—	151
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ....	8.33	21.1	—	—	9.6

(Total weight of meat condemned : 75,233 lbs.)

## DISEASED OR UNSOUND MEAT DESTROYED

Organs, etc. Destroyed	DISEASES													Totals
	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Actinomycosis	Oedema Emphysema	Pyæmia Septicæmia	Cysts Tumours	Flukes. Cirrhosis	Inflammation	Injury	Emaciation	Strongyli	Decomposition. Bone-taint	Miscellaneous	
Cattle: Heads ...	67	35	30	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	137
(exclud- Lungs ...	81	12	-	1	7	5	23	23	-	1	-	-	1	157
ing Hearts ...	54	15	-	1	3	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	80
cows) Diaphragms ...	4	14	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	24
Stomachs ...	4	-	-	1	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	12
Livers ...	31	-	-	1	41	-	1107	5	-	-	-	-	3	1188
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11
Mesenteries ...	25	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	36
Spleens ...	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	17
Fat ..	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Carcases ...	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Parts of ditto	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	23	-	29
Cows: Heads ...	60	7	18	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
Lungs ...	132	-	-	3	11	3	22	13	-	-	-	-	-	187
Hearts ...	101	7	-	2	4	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	119
Diaphragms ...	15	-	-	6	4	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	28
Stomachs ...	9	-	-	-	11	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	25
Livers ...	36	-	-	-	21	1	814	5	-	-	-	-	3	880
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	10	-	-	-	-	2	17
Mesenteries ...	45	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	48
Spleens ...	11	-	-	-	3	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	27
Udders ...	6	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	13
Fat ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Carcases ...	16	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	21
Parts of ditto	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	13
Calves: Head ...	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lungs ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	6
Hearts ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4
Livers ..	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	7
Carcases ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	3
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sheep: Heads ...	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Lungs ...	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	2135	-	-	2143
Hearts ...	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	16
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Intestines ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Livers ...	-	-	-	2	6	-	1713	-	-	-	-	-	-	1724
Fat ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases ...	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	2	-	15
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	5	16
Pigs: Heads ...	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
Lungs ...	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	46
Hearts ...	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	28
Intestines ...	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	11
Livers ...	21	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Spleens ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fat ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mesenteries ...	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Carcases ...	8	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	12
Parts of ditto	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	9
TOTALS ...	937	90	48	34	169	31	3691	180	11	32	2135	27	18	7403

(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

The following is a record of the samples taken :—

				<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
				<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>
Beef Sausages	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Butter	...	...	...	4	—	1	1
Jam	...	...	...	1	—	5	—
Mincemeat	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	2	1	3	2
Aspirin	...	...	...	—	—	4	—
Tincture of Iodine	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Table Jelly	...	...	...	—	—	3	1
Lemon Cheese	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	—	—	5	—
Non-Brewed Condiment	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Ground Coffee	...	...	...	2	—	4	—
Suet	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Milk	...	...	...	30	1	12	—
Cream	...	...	...	1	—	7	—
Cheese	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Meat Paste	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Lard	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Pork Pie	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Tinned Calves Tongues	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Almond Oil	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Arrowroot	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Epsom Salts	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Oatmeal	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Ice-cream	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Margarine	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Mustard	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Ground Rice	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Ground White Pepper	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Gin	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Whiskey	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Rum	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Pickle	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Sterilised Cream	...	...	...	—	—	5	—
Honey	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Custard Powder	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Golden Syrup	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Treacle	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	1	—	4	—
Essence of Rennet	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Sodium Bi-carbonate	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Baking Powder	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Vegetarian Fat	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Saccharin	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Curry Powder	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Almond Essence	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
TOTAL				53	2	95	4



The formal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :—

A sample of vinegar taken from a vendor was a non-brewed condiment (made from acetic acid and water coloured with caramel); analysis showed acetic acid 3.5 per cent., total solid matters 0.37 per cent. and water 96.13 per cent. A letter of warning was sent to the vendor.

A sample of milk was taken from a farm and the milk fat was found to be not more than 2.88 per cent. An “ appeal to the cow ” was genuine and a warning letter was sent to the farmer concerned.

The informal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :—

A sample of blackcurrant flavour table jelly was taken from a large store selling their own product ; the total sugar was 59.8 per cent. which showed 5 per cent. deficiency. A verbal warning was given, and the complete stock of the same type of table jelly was withdrawn from sale.

A sample of vinegar taken from a vendor was a non-brewed condiment ; analysis showed acetic acid 4.45 per cent., water and caramel colouring 95.55 per cent. A letter of warning was sent.

A sample of vinegar from another vendor was a non-brewed condiment ; analysis showed acetic acid 4.7 per cent., water and caramel colouring 95.3 per cent. A letter of warning was sent.

A sample of butter was taken from a vendor and showed water 21.6 per cent., which is 35 per cent. in excess of the proper proportion ; as genuine butter contains not more than 16 per cent. of water. A subsequent formal sample proved genuine.

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included :—						Weight lbs. ozs.	
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	2,225	4½
Canned Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	5	15
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1,154	4½
Bottled Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	17	8
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	6,779	5¼
Bottled Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1,840	—
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	145	15
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	168	4¼
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	174	—
Shell Fish	...	...	...	...	...	10	—
Canned Fish and Meat Pastes	...	...	...	...	...	12	1¾
Canned Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Canned Soup	...	...	...	...	...	122	15½
Canned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	337	15
Canned Juice	...	...	...	...	...	121	10½
Jams and Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	430	9
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	1	14½
Canned Fruit Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	30	—
Cake Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	192	12½

						<i>Weight</i>	
						<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	872	3
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	136	8
Pudding Mixtures	...	...	...	...	...	27	4
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	185	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Butter, Lard	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	43	—
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	497	—
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	188	—
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	...	138	15
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	2	13
Sandwich Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	4	10
Tinned Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Tinned Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	30	6
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	21	10
Nuts	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
Total weight condemned						15,955	10

(Total weight condemned : 7 tons 276 lbs.)

(d) *Ice-Cream.*

*The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.*

These came into force on the 5th May, and allow a high temperature (175 deg. F.) short time (15 seconds) heat treatment—as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature (either 160 deg. F. for 10 minutes or 150 deg. F. for 30 minutes). This is somewhat similar to the provisions for pasteurising milk, but ice-cream is really an emulsion of varying viscosity and difficult to propel through metal tubes. The apparatus has therefore to be thermostatically controlled, and must be fitted with a positive displacement pump which shall serve to maintain the flow of the mixture during its retention at the prescribed temperature at an even rate, and also with a device which shall automatically divert the flow of any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is at present no installation of this type in the Borough.

The supervision and registration of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold have been carefully maintained : for ice-cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasised for adequate sterilisation of all apparatus (and unless utensils are properly washed and cleaned first, they cannot be sterilised adequately), for the development of a “no-touch technique” (which means that hands should not be introduced into an ice-cream mix at any stage), and for the realisation of the greater danger if the hot-mix is not rapidly cooled with special apparatus (for any dangerous organisms introduced after heating have ideal conditions for multiplying during an inefficient cooling process).



There are now registered in the Borough 202 premises for the preparation, storage or sale of ice-cream, and in 142 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. The number of manufacturers has been reduced to 4 ; of these, three use a hot mix. Three manufacturers retail their own product, and there is only one premises registered solely for the storage of ice-cream.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been continued by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter : and following the original work carried out by the Medical Research Council, a simple modified methylene blue test has been suggested for the grading of ice-cream :

<i>Provisional Grade</i>	<i>Time taken to reduce methylene blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
1	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2	2½-4 hours	Fair
3	½-2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4	0	Very bad

The following table gives the results of the samples taken during the year :

	GRADES				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Local Manufacturers ...	16	2	3	1	22
Outside Manufacturers ...	31	7	3	2	43
TOTAL ...	47	9	6	3	65

(e) *Food and Disease.*

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

It is requested that information should be given as far as possible under the following sub-headings :—

(i) *The number, if available, of food premises in the area, by type of business.*

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Approx. No.</i>
Grocers ...	156
Greengrocers ...	96
Butchers ...	58
Fishmongers ...	18
Fish Fryers ...	18
Confectioners ...	96
Cake Confectioners ...	36
Bakehouses ...	27
Cafés, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.	77
Licensed Premises (including Hotels)	109
Unlicensed Hotels and Boarding Houses	573



(ii) *The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

(a) *Food Premises registered under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act.*  
202 Ice-cream premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business :—

						<i>Wrapped</i>	<i>Bulk</i>
Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	49	1
Greengrocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Confectioners ...	...	...	...	...	...	41	2
Fishmongers ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Fish Fryers ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Bakers ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
General Stores ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
Cafés ...	...	...	...	...	...	9	35
Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	4	10
Ice-cream Kiosks	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Booksellers ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Hotels ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Amusement Places	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Factory only ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Store only ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						<hr/> 142	<hr/> 60

65 Preserved Food premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business :—

Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Cooked Meat Dealers ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Preserved Food Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1

(b) *Premises and Persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	14
Distributors only	...	...	...	...	...	31

(iii) *The number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary :—*

Ice-cream Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	304
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Preserved Food (Butchers)	...	...	...	...	...	785
Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	191

Other food premises to which registration does not at present apply, were also inspected :—

Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	381
Greengrocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Fishmongers ...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Fish Fryers ...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Confectioners ...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Cafés, Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	130
Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	234
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	87

- (iv) *Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.*

The measures to which reference has been made in previous reports have been continued, including special talks with films to catering organisations ; and the Hotels' Association has given active assistance in these arrangements. But there seems little doubt that the most effective way of improving and maintaining standards of hygiene is the regular inspection by your Sanitary Inspectors, in practical advice and informal discussion with both Management and Staff. It is still true that " men must be taught as if you taught them not " ; and repeated visits help to prevent the falling away inevitable with the frailty of human memory and the ease with which good intentions unconsciously tend to lapse.

There is no dramatic short cut to the ideal, and much quiet patience and perseverance are needed year after year.

- (v) *The method and disposal of condemned food.*

Condemned meat from the abattoir is handed over to a Contractor designated by the Ministry of Food, and the meat is taken to Exeter for salvage purposes.

Meat from shops is returned to the local Meat Dépôt and consigned in the same way, or alternatively is destroyed in the Refuse Destructor.

Other foods condemned are destroyed in the Refuse Destructor, the condemnation notes being checked there with the articles received. In exceptional circumstances, articles such as potatoes, when suitable, are sent for pig food after processing.

- (vi) *Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.*

No special examinations have been made.

- (f) *Food Poisoning Outbreaks.*

Details of any outbreaks are requested in the following tabular form :—

<i>Total Number of Outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>	<i>Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>
—	—	—	—	—

## SECTION F

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## 1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of infectious disease for the year is given in the subjoined table, which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths :

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	70	37	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	543	27	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	232	24	—
Enteric Fevers ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	4	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	27	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	6	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—			
Paralytic .. ..	6	6	2
Non-paralytic .. ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection .. ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	9	9	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ... ..	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad) ... ..	—	—	—

### Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was slightly higher than during the preceding three years, but the type remained mild. The notification rate was 1.40 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 1.39 for England and Wales, and 1.50 for the large towns.

### Measles.

Throughout England and Wales, measles became epidemic in the opening months of the year, and in February reached the highest recorded notifications. In the Borough the outbreak was delayed and the notifications showed that it was not as extensive as in May–June, 1951, when a higher incidence was reached, possibly because the number of susceptible children in 1953 was lower. The notifications began to rise from February to a maximum in April and subsequently subsided rapidly so that the epidemic was over by the end of May : the highest monthly total was 211 compared with 672 in June, 1951, while the total incidence was 543 compared with 1,031 in 1951.



Complicated cases were not numerous and there was one sudden death in a defective child.

The notification rate was 10.86 per 1,000 population compared with 12.36 for England and Wales and 11.27 for the large towns.

#### *Whooping Cough.*

The incidence of whooping cough rose to epidemic proportions during the summer months, but the highest monthly notifications did not exceed 100 ; complicated cases were not numerous and there was no death. The notification rate was 4.64 per 1,000 population compared with 3.58 for England and Wales, and 3.72 for the large towns.

#### *Acute Poliomyelitis.*

During the year there were 6 notifications ; but of these, 4 were visitors who were infected before arriving in the Borough, two being severe and rapidly fatal.

#### *Influenza.*

There was an outbreak of mild influenza in the Borough as part of the epidemic which affected Southern England, Scandinavia and Europe spreading southwards ; complications were neither extensive nor serious, and the number of deaths certified to influenza was 6, all in the age-groups over 45 years.

#### *Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.*

These Regulations came into force on the 1st April and supersede the Regulations of 1927. The new regulations are similar to the old in requiring the notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia ; and also provide for preventive steps to be taken against the spread of certain specified diseases—malaria, typhus and relapsing fever, typhoid, paratyphoid or other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.

The action prescribed is now in accordance with the present constitution and working of the health services ; but the regulations make important changes and amplify the precautionary measures (provided for in the revoked regulation of 1927) against food poisoning—namely

- (a) by relating these, instead of to enteric fever and dysentery, as formerly, to typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infections, dysentery, and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.
- (b) by applying these measures to persons shown to be carriers of these diseases in addition to those persons suffering from the diseases.

- (c) by preventing such persons (cases or carriers) not only from continuing employment involving the handling of food as formerly, but also from entering such employment.
- (d) by enabling a Local Authority to authorise their Medical Officer of Health to issue notices in emergency, in order to check the spread of these diseases.

Your Medical Officer was authorised to issue any notice or take the prescribed action in a particular case without waiting to report it (although a report is required at the earliest opportunity subsequently), if in his judgment this action needs to be taken as a matter of immediate urgency to prevent the spread of infection.

As required by Regulation 4, a copy of the Regulations was sent to every medical practitioner in the Borough.

### 3. *Tuberculosis.*

*Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).*

No action was required.

#### *New cases and mortality during 1953.*

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1953 are given in the following table :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	6	4	1	—	1	2	—	—
25 to 34 years ...	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years ...	4	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 to 54 years ...	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 64 years ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
<i>Totals</i> ...	22	12	2	2	6	6	—	—

## BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

### PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1953

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1953, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 and Circular 21/53.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report were revised, and full details were given in the report for 1952; and the intermediate years will be covered by a shorter report. In the year under review certain sections, marked with an asterisk, are therefore omitted as there has been no change to record; but the sectional headings are retained to ensure continuity.

#### \*SECTION 1—STAFF

TABLE A

NO CHANGE.

### SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

<i>Ships from</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number Inspected</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health</i>	<i>By the Sanitary Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	21	1,249	1	21	—
Coastwise ...	248	17,061	7	43	—
TOTAL ...	269	18,310	8	64	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 1,864 visits (total tonnage 11,577) to the fish quay and frequent inspections of these have been made.



### SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

---

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	{ <div>           Number of passengers INWARDS            Number of passengers OUTWARDS         </div> }	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	{ <div>           Principal IMPORTS. Cement, (11 cargoes)            Principal EXPORTS. Bricks. (1 cargo)         </div> }	Timber, (5 cargoes)

---

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1953 :  
 London, Guernsey and general coastwise.

FOREIGN PORTS were : Gelfe, Nyhamn, Gothenburg, Ljusne, Ramvik (Sweden)  
 Mantyluoto, Pateniemi (Finland).

---

### SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

### \*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

NO CHANGE.

### \*SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

NO CHANGE.

### SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

- (2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

(3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. C. Seward of Exeter,

Dr. W. J. Laird of Exeter.

(4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

---

**\*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE**

NO CHANGE.

**SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND  
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS**

**TABLE D**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Disease</i>	<i>No. of cases during the year</i>		<i>No. of ships concerned</i>
		<i>Passengers</i>	<i>Crew</i>	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been dis- posed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports ... ..	—	—	—	—

*A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.*

N I L .

## SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

N I L .

---

## SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

N I L .

---

## SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

### (1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

### (2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

### (3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

### (4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.



TABLE E

*Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.*

N I L .

TABLE F

*Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.*

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

### SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

#### Inspections and Notices

<i>Nature and Number of Inspections</i>		<i>Notices served</i>		<i>Result of serving notices</i>
		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	<i>Other Notices</i>	
General ...	56	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	56	—	—	—

### \*SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

NO CHANGE.

### \*SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS (Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

NO CHANGE.

### \* SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS

NO CHANGE.



---

UNDERHILL (PLYMOUTH) LTD.

PRINTERS

WORKS ———— REGENT STREET

---